IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

CENTRAL FAX CENTE

Joseph C. Walsh

FEB 0 3 2004

Serial No.:

10/027,744

Group Art Unit: 3721

Filed: December 20, 2001

Examiner: Sameh H. Tawfik

For:

PROCESS FOR MAKING A

DISPENSING ASSEMBLY

Atty Dkt. PP 5.71(c)

OFFIC

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY

To: Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the Office action mailed January 30, 2004, be withdrawn for the reasons set forth below.

In the Office action, the Examiner applies new grounds of rejection to all of the pending claims. The Examiner provides the following explanation for nevertheless making the action final:

Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP §609(B)(2)(i).

(bold type in original)

The Examiner's statement appears to be in error since none of the new references applied by the Examiner in the final Office action were cited

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> on applicant's information disclosure statement. Specifically, the Examiner applies Goldstein (U.S. 2,701,679) and Knauf (U.S. 5,415,910) to reject applicant's claims. Applicant's information disclosure statement filed October 10, 2004, however, cites only Ours et al. (U.S. 6,474,046) and Ours et al. (U.S. 6,474,040). Accordingly, it is not seen how applicant's submission of the information disclosure statement in question could possibly have "prompted the new ground(s) of rejection" as asserted by the Examiner.

The Examiner's reliance on MPEP §609(B)(2)(i) is also not understood. This section of the MPEP reads as follows:

> If information submitted during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with a statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) is used in a new ground of rejection on unamended claims, the next Office action will not be made final since in this situation it is clear that applicant has submitted the information to the Office promptly after it has become known and the information is being submitted prior to a final determination on patentability by the Office.

(emphasis added)

At the outset, this section of the MPEP applies only to situations in which information cited by applicant is used in a new ground of rejection. As pointed out above, however, the Examiner did not use either of the references cited by applicant in the final rejection. Further, MPEP §609(B)(2)(i) only specifies a situation in which an Office action will not be made final, accordingly, this section cannot serve as the basis for making an action final.

It is noted that MPEP §609(B)(2)(ii) does authorize a final Office action in certain circumstances; once again, however, this section is relevant only when the reference cited is used in a new ground of rejection.

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For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully asserts that the Office action mailed January 30, 2004, was improperly made final.

Accordingly, applicant requests that the finality be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

Michael A. Goodwin, Reg. No. 32,697

KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

1999 Broadway, Suite 2225

Denver, CO 80202

Telephone: (303) 298-9888

Fax: (303) 297-2266

Date: February 2, 2004

SEARCHES

KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

WILLIAM P. O'MEARA
JAY K. MALKIN
MICHAEL A. GOODWIN
NELLJE C. KAUFMAN
GUY K. CLINGER
ROBERT W. NELSON
JOSEPH J. KELLY (DF COUNSEL)
BRUCE G. KLAAS (OF COUNSEL)
RICHARD D. LAW (1919-1981)
STEPHEN B. KATSAROS*

(REGISTERED PATENT AGENT)

1999 Broadway, Suite 2225 Denver, Colorado 80202

TELEPHONE (303) 298-9888 FACSIMILE (303) 297-2266 E-Mail: KLAASLAW@WORLDNET.ATT.NET PATENTS
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Group Art Unit 3721

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FROM: Michael A. Goodwin, Esq. - KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/027,744

Our Ref.: PP 5.71(c)

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES (Including Transmittal Sheet) -7-

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.	NO DE ELOR	Application Number	10/027,744			
TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence efter initial filing)		Filing Date	December 20, 2001			
		First Named Inventor	Joseph C. Walsh			
		Art Unit	3721			
(10 00 0000 /01 00 00 00 00		Examiner Name	Sameh H. Tawfi	k		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	6	Attorney Docket Number	PP 5.71(c)			
ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)						
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Filing Date December 20, 2001						
for FY 2004 First Named Inventor Joseph C. Walsh						
Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision. Examiner Name Sameh H. Tawfik	H. Tawfik					
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27 Art Unit 3721						
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1003 530 2003 265 Plant filing fee 1402 330 2402 165 Filing a brief in support of an appeal						
1004 770 2004 365 Reissue filling fee 1403 290 2403 145 Request for oral hearing						
1005 160 2005 60 Provisional filing fee 1451 1,510 1451 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding						
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1201 86 2201 43 Independent claims in excess of 3 (37 CFR 1.129(a))						
1203 290 2203 145 Multiple dependent claim, if not peid 1810 770 2810 385 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))						
1204 86 2204 43 ** Reissue independent claims over original patent 1801 770 2801 385 Request for Continued Examination (RCE)						
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